

International Outreach
Collaboration
Spring Convention 2011
Bulletin #2



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“...nothing so liberalizes a man and expands the kindly instincts that nature put in him as travel and contact with many kinds of people.” *Mark Twain, 1867.*

GFWC International Outreach Community Service Program enables members to become better citizens of the world and to advocate, educate and affect change in the world. What affects the world affects us. The Florida Clubs are dedicated to the world community and promoting world peace and education. You have educated yourselves and your local communities on women and children issues, traveled and volunteered to gain a better understanding of the world.

Armchair travel was a big event for many clubs. Club and community members gave seminars on experiences in other countries. **GFWC Temple Terrace Woman's Club** had a member, an elected official, represent her city in a sister city exchange. She shared her experience of being greeted by the Mayor, given a tour of city hall, being a guest of the city at lunch and a concert. Another club corresponded regularly with their sister city, exchanging news of events, elections and daily life abroad. **Hollywood Woman's Club** had a Japanese tell of her journey to the United States and becoming a successful business woman and another club had a woman tell of her escape from Hungary when it was still behind the iron curtain. Four clubs had programs on human trafficking. World Food Day was celebrated by 23 clubs, helping out with hungry neighbors.

GFWC Coral Gables Woman's Club joined a group departing Miami on a bicycle ride to Key West in support of Aids Awareness. A member walked a rider-less bicycle at the closing ceremony, remembering those lost to the disease. **Junior Woman's Club of Lakeland** participated in a project recording books on cassette tape and then handed them over to the children of migrant workers to help them learn English. **GFWC Woman's Club of Lutz Land O' Lakes** and **GFWC Melbourne Woman's Club** participated in Little Dresses for Africa. Members sewed dresses for Africa girls from pillow cases.

When an earthquake hit Haiti 26 clubs sent donations immediately to relief organizations. **GFWC Homestead Junior Woman's Club** bought teddy bears and met planes bringing earthquake survivors from Haiti and gave them to the children. The children were traumatized and this gesture of love and security was greatly appreciated. Relief was sent to Chile and China also after their devastating quakes.

“Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry and narrow mindedness, and many of our people need it sorely on these accounts. Broad, wholesome, charitable views of men and things cannot be acquired by vegetating in one little corner of the earth all one's lifetime.” *Innocents Abroad, Mark Twain*

GFWC International Outreach Community Service Program was enthusiastically embraced by Florida club women with direct service opportunities. You spent **32,841 hours, on 1,085 projects, by 5,466 members whose clubs gave cash donations of \$26,890 and \$118,583 in kind** to International Outreach Service Programs. You are wonderful. Thank you so much for your fabulous work on behalf of your communities and the world. WOW!